

(Translation)

Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Coastal Affairs Committee (5/18-19)

Date: 4 January 2019 (Friday)  
Time: 2:30 p.m.  
Venue: Main Conference Room, Tsuen Wan District Office

Present:

Members

Ms LAM, Lam Nixie (Chairlady)  
Mr NG Hin-lung, Norris (Vice Chairman)  
Mr KOO Yeung-pong, MH  
Mr LI Hung-por  
Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis  
Mr CHAN Sung-ip, MH  
Mr WONG Ka-wa  
Mr WONG Wai-kit, MH  
Mr CHOW Ping-tim  
Mr CHENG Chit-pun  
Mr LO Siu-kit, MH  
Mr TAM Hoi-pong

Government Representatives:

Mr CHOW Chun-hun, Gary	Assistant District Officer (Tsuen Wan), Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr MAK Shui-wing	Marine Manager/Licensing & Port Formalities (2), Licensing and Port Formalities Section, Marine Department
Miss NG Nei-yin	Health Inspector (Contract Management) 2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms SIU Yuen-ching, Sara	Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan) 1, Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LEUNG Kam-man	Land Executive/Land Management 4 (District Lands Office, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing), Lands Department
Miss TAI Tsz-yan, Angie	Executive Officer (Development), Tsuen Wan District Office

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat Representatives:

Miss LAM Siu-yung, Daisy	Senior Executive Officer (District Council), Tsuen Wan District Office
Mr WAN Chun-hei, Leo (Secretary)	Executive Officer (District Council) 3, Tsuen Wan District Office

Attendance by Invitation:

For discussion of item 2A

Mr TSANG Lap-kei, Freddie	Acting Chief Engineer/West 2, Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr SIU Man-kit, Terry	Engineer/14 (West), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr LEE Wing-hang	Engineer, Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited
Mr HUNG Sing-ip	Resident Engineer, Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited
Mr CHAN Wai-keung	Senior Project Manager, Richwell Civil Joint Venture
Mr TSE Wing-chung	Construction Manager, Richwell Civil Joint Venture

For discussion of item 2E

Mr LEE Tin-shing	Senior Assistant Shipping Master/Pollution Control Unit (1), Marine Department
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For discussion of item 2F

Ms LO Sze-yan	Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2, Drainage Services Department
Ms TSANG Ka-man, Carmen	Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 2, Environmental Protection Department

Absent:

Member

Mr MAN Yu-ming, MH

The Meeting

I Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chairlady welcomed the Members and representatives from the government departments to the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Coastal Affairs Committee (CAC) and introduced the government representatives who attended the meeting for the first time, including:

- (1) Ms SIU Yuen-ching, Sara, who replaced Mr CHUNG Tak-yau to assume the post of Deputy District Leisure Manager (Tsuen Wan)<sup>1</sup> of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department; and
- (2) Miss NG Nei-yin, who replaced Ms CHEUNG Tsz-yan to assume the post of Health Inspector (Contract Management)<sup>2</sup> (HI(CM)<sup>2</sup>) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD).

2. The Chairlady said that for Members' information, Mr MAN Yu-ming was absent with

apologies.

3. The Chairlady reminded Members that, according to section 28 of the Tsuen Wan District Council Standing Orders, unless otherwise agreed by the Chairlady, a Member might speak and make supplementary remarks for each agenda item only once at the meeting. Each Member could speak up to three minutes each time.

II Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting held on 2.11.2018

4. The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously confirmed by Members without amendment.

III Item 2: Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

(A) Paragraphs 4 to 12 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 November 2018: 268RS - Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun

5. The Chairlady welcomed the representatives from the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) to the meeting, including:

- (1) Mr TSANG Lap-kei, Freddie, Acting Chief Engineer/West 2 (Atg. CE/W2);
- (2) Mr SIU Man-kit, Terry, Engineer/14 (West) (E/14(W));
- (3) Mr LEE Wing-hang, Engineer of the Ove Arup and Partners Hong Kong Limited (OAP);
- (4) Mr HUNG Sing-ip, Resident Engineer of the OAP;
- (5) Mr CHAN Wai-keung, Senior Project Manager of the Richwell Civil Joint Venture (Richwell), the Contractor engaged by the CEDD; and
- (6) Mr TSE Wing-chung, Construction Manager of Richwell.

6. Atg. CE/W2 of the CEDD said that the CEDD would, at the meeting of the Working Group on Advance Works for Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun (Working Group) under the CAC to be held on 9 January 2019, give response to the views put forth by Members of the Working Group at the first meeting of the Working Group held on 12 October 2018 and during the on-site inspection on 1 November 2018 as well as report on the latest progress to Members.

7. Construction Manager of Richwell briefed the CAC on the latest progress of the Advance Works of Project No. 268RS - Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun, including the construction arrangements and plans for the future.

(Note: Mr CHENG Chit-pun joined the meeting at 2:38 p.m. Mr TAM Hoi-pong joined the meeting at 2:40 p.m. Mr WONG Ka-wa joined the meeting at 2:40 p.m.)

8. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he enquired whether the in-bound and out-bound routings of the works vehicles of the CEDD as shown in Diagram 10 were next to a school and whether the CEDD would use prefabricated components at the seawall (Mr LO Siu-kit);
- (2) given that it was stated in the presentation that the works would be completed in the third quarter of 2020, he enquired whether the public could use the cycle track by then (the Vice Chairman);

- (3) while the works included projects which were more time-consuming such as the construction of lifts and toilets, the actual time required for the construction of the cycle track might be shorter. In this connection, he enquired when the public could see the completed surface of the cycle track (the Vice Chairman);
- (4) the dragon boat races would be held at the end of May 2019 in Tsuen Wan. He enquired when the works area would be extended to the U-shaped open space on Hoi On Road (Mr CHAN Sung-ip);
- (5) he had earlier expressed his wish for the CEDD to construct a staircase at the shore which would extend to the sea. In this connection, he enquired about the status of the construction of the staircase (Mr CHAN Sung-ip);
- (6) during the on-site inspection earlier, Members had inspected the jogging track and emergency access off Tsuen Wan Park. He enquired whether the CEDD had formulated the latest proposal (Mr KOO Yeung-pong);
- (7) during the on-site inspection, he proposed that the footpath and the cycle track along the row of trees at the turning point shown in Diagrams 18 to 20 should be separated from each other to avoid the need to fell those trees. He enquired whether the CEDD was considering his proposal (Mr TAM Hoi-pong); and
- (8) he understood that the tree in Diagram 20 needed to be relocated as its location overlapped with that of the lift. He enquired of the CEDD whether the tree would be relocated to a position 5 to 10 metres away, and what the respective arrangements would be (Mr TAM Hoi-pong).

9. E/14(W) of the CEDD responded as follows:

- (1) the Member's concern over the trees was noted. The CEDD had examined the feasibility of re-planning the alignment of the cycle track at the said location and relocating the trees, and would explain the situation to Members at the Working Group meeting to be held on 9 January;
- (2) the CEDD had requested the contractor to study the feasibility of relocating the tree at the location of the lift and the study was underway;
- (3) the CEDD had prepared three proposals on the jogging track and would report to Members on their respective merits and demerits at the Working Group meeting to be held on 9 January; and
- (4) the CEDD anticipated that the cycle track would be opened in the fourth quarter of 2020.

10. Construction Manager of Richwell responded as follows:

- (1) Concreting and excavation were required for the works at the location shown in Diagram 10 as referred to by the Member. Works vehicles would enter and exit the said location during the construction;
- (2) currently, works were carried out at four locations, and the section of cycle track that would most easily come into shape was the one at the top;
- (3) he thanked the Member for providing the proposal on the use of prefabricated components. Richwell would respond to Members on the proposal at the Working Group meeting to be held on 9 January 2019; and
- (4) the entire cycle track would come into shape in the third quarter of 2020.

(Note: Mr CHOW Ping-tim joined the meeting at 2:50 p.m.)

11. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:
  - (1) he enquired whether the works at construction site 4 would continue until mid-May 2019. He was worried that the works would affect the staircase used by participants of dragon boat races to the waterfront and hoped that the CEDD would avoid such a scenario as far as possible (Mr CHAN Sung-ip);
  - (2) he had expressed at the meeting held earlier his wish for the CEDD to give consideration to the construction of a staircase which ran in the opposite direction for the convenience of participants of dragon boat races (Mr CHAN Sung-ip);
  - (3) during the inspection with the CEDD's staff conducted earlier, she had pointed out the location of the staircase referred to by the Member to the CEDD's staff (the Chairlady);
  - (4) he hoped that the CEDD would draw reference from the practice of lifting, loading and unloading components at the sea and, for safety purposes, reduce the frequency of works vehicles' entry to and exit from the alley adjoining the school at the said location by making use of prefabricated components (Mr LO Siu-kit);
  - (5) during the previous on-site inspection and the discussion with the departments concerned thereafter, he had looked into the Riviera Park section and learnt that the footpath at the said location would be substantially narrowed and planters would be provided for the separation of the footpath and the cycle track. He had earlier advised against installing planters lest it should narrow the footpath. He now enquired about the progress in that regard (Mr CHOW Ping-tim);
  - (6) during the on-site inspection earlier, he had said that it would be more desirable if the alignment of the section from Riviera Park to Tsuen Wan Park was close to the jogging track. He enquired whether the alignment of the section concerned would ultimately be constructed along the jogging track and how the CEDD's study on the alignment was progressing (Mr CHOW Ping-tim);
  - (7) as the area next to the public toilet on the section from the exit of MTR Tsuen Wan West Station to Tsuen Wan Park was relatively narrow, he had requested the CEDD to provide a footpath at the said location so that the pedestrians could continue to use the existing area. He enquired the CEDD about the progress (Mr CHOW Ping-tim);
  - (8) he expressed dissatisfaction with the reply of the CEDD. Besides, he thought that the CEDD should distribute to Members relevant information on the various proposals in advance for a full understanding of the proposals rather than not notifying Members of the relevant information until 9 January 2019, the date of the meeting five days from today. He hoped that the CEDD would submit the information to Members after this meeting as soon as possible (Mr CHOW Ping-tim);
  - (9) he was concerned about the slope of the section from the exit of MTR Tsuen Wan West Station to Tsuen Wan Park. He originally thought that the section concerned should be built along the waterfront, but the CEDD pointed out the difficulties regarding his proposal (Mr TAM Hoi-pong);
  - (10) he opined that the above location was very crowded in the morning and during commuting hours and was concerned that the section of cycle track would be very close to the Chinese banyans with aerial roots in the vicinity of the said location if the

CEDD adopted the current standard width of 4 metres when constructing the cycle track (Mr TAM Hoi-pong); and

- (11) if the CEDD insisted on its proposed alignment, he hoped that it would adopt the minimum width standard for the construction of the cycle track. He opined that the rigid standard was the reason for the CEDD's lack of flexibility and hoped that the department would give as much response as possible at this meeting or provide a satisfactory proposal at the Working Group meeting to be held in the following week (Mr TAM Hoi-pong).

12. The Chairlady said that Members hoped to learn about how the CEDD had been following up on Members' views. The greatest concern of Members was the need for coordination between the CEDD and relevant departments regarding the location and situation of dragon boat races and other well-established major events in Tsuen Wan. If the CEDD had enquiries about the information provided by any Member earlier, she suggested that the CEDD should contact the Member concerned to learn about the details of the event. In addition, she had conducted an on-site inspection with the CEDD's staff prior to this CAC meeting. The landing steps referred to by the Member were situated at the top of the staircase at the end of the then straight road, and would be used during the dragon boat races. Also, Members had clearly expressed their wish for the CEDD to retain the trees that remained after the passage of previous typhoons as far as possible. If it was unfeasible, the CEDD should relocate the trees rather than cutting them.

13. E/14(W) of the CEDD responded as follows:

- (1) the CEDD would explain the proposal on the planters to Members at the Working Group meeting to be held on 9 January 2019 and discuss the three proposals prepared by the CEDD on preventing the alignment of the cycle track from going through the middle of the road;
- (2) with regard to the alignment of the cycle track outside MTR Tsuen Wan West Station, the CEDD and the consultant of the works had conducted an on-site inspection at the section of footpath of Members' concern and it was proposed that a footpath of at least 1.5 metres in width should be retained next to the cycle track considering the physical constraints thereat. The proposal would be reported to Members at the Working Group meeting to be held on 9 January 2019;
- (3) the CEDD already noted during the earlier inspection that the landing steps would be used in the dragon boat events. The CEDD discussed with the relevant officers of the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) in December 2018 the beautification works of the waterfront conducted by the ArchSD at the said location, which was not included in the works area of the CEDD. In addition, the CEDD had made construction arrangements in consultation with the ArchSD, and would complete the relevant work before the dragon boat events; and
- (4) the CEDD could provide Members with information on the Working Group meeting of 9 January 2019 in the next few days.

14. The Chairlady said that the details of the works would be discussed at the Working Group meeting on 9 January 2019. The places which would be used in the dragon boat events were not limited to the location of the landing steps and included the rectangular open space referred to by the Member earlier. She suggested that the CEDD should discuss the arrangements with the Member

concerned after the meeting. Given that the ArchSD had pledged to complete their works at the said location before the dragon boat events, and the works of the CEDD would take a longer time and also cover the ArchSD's works location, she hoped that the CEDD would coordinate with the ArchSD regarding where to place construction materials by then.

(B) Paragraphs 13 to 16 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 November 2018: Request for Relocation of Dangerous Vessel Berths at Rambler Channel to a Location Far Away from Residential Area to Eliminate Safety Hazard

15. The Chairlady said that the Transport and Housing Bureau and Planning Department had submitted their written replies on the captioned matter prior to the meeting for Members' perusal. Besides, as this agenda item was raised by her and Mr WONG Wai-kit, the Vice Chairman would take over the chair temporarily.

16. Marine Manager/Licensing & Port Formalities (2) (MM/LPF(2)) of the Marine Department (MD) said that at the previous CAC meeting the department reported on its meeting with agents of local oil carriers and stakeholders to Members, and urged the parties concerned to adopt precautionary measures such as oil pollution control, prevention of the generation of floating refuse, prevention of dark smoke emission, and avoidance of causing noise nuisance. In addition, the MD had recently deployed staff to inspect the area in question and found its situation normal. Staff of the MD would continue to closely monitor the area and conduct inspection.

17. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) she had received many complaints in the past two months about the generation of noise from vessels, including yelling at other vessels and noises from the maintenance of vessels. She enquired the MD whether there were corresponding measures to remind the persons concerned to be mindful of the noise problem (Ms LAM, Lam Nixie);
- (2) the CAC had discussed the berths and mooring buoys for a period of time. In view of the gradual population intake of the coastal housing developments, he believed that there would be more complaints in the future (Mr LO Siu-kit);
- (3) the MD had told Members that the oil carriers would not berth overnight but would rather stop for a while at the berths and leave shortly after storing oil. He enquired the MD whether a mechanism had been put in place as regards the matter (Mr LO Siu-kit);
- (4) he enquired whether the MD had imposed any regulation on the berthing of vessels at the mooring buoys. He also asked whether all vessels could berth at the mooring buoys and, if not, whether vessels should be registered as vessels conveying dangerous goods with the MD in advance with a statement that they would use the buoys as transit points or berthing points. Finally, he requested the MD to provide relevant statistics (Mr LO Siu-kit); and
- (5) as seen from the aerial photos of the past 20 years, the number of mooring buoys had indeed increased as compared to the past. He enquired of the MD whether there was any method to gradually reduce the number of mooring buoys or regulate them to prevent a continuous rise in the number of vessels berthing at the location in question (Mr LO Siu-kit).

18. MM/LPF(2) of the MD responded as follows:
- (1) the MD had frozen the number of private moorings (PMs) in 2005 and had never increased the number of PMs since then;
  - (2) each PM was assigned to a designated company and vessel for berthing. In principle, a PM was only for the berthing of a vessel in respect of which a booking for the PM concerned had been made, and could not be used for random berthing. The MD would continue to keep in view the situation;
  - (3) he would learn about the situation from relevant colleagues and the availability of any feasible measures in the next review of the PMs, such as reducing the number of PMs or cancelling the PMs which were no longer used by vessels;
  - (4) so far, the MD had not been notified that the PMs would cease to be used by oil carriers for berthing; and
  - (5) the MD would remind the Harbour Patrol Section to step up its patrols, during which the section's staff would remind the operators of the oil carriers to communicate by means of mobile phones or walkie-talkies as far as possible so as to avoid generating unnecessary noises by, for example, using amplifiers for conversation. The MD would keep the situation in view.
19. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) she enquired of the MD whether there was currently a mechanism in place imposing restrictions on PMs not used for a long time or the maximum number of vessels allowed for each PM (Ms LAM, Lam Nixie);
  - (2) she opined that the MD should not defer the discussion until the next review of the PMs. She enquired of the MD whether it could resume its review of the PMs in response to the discussion at this meeting, and currently how often the department would conduct a review. If the MD did not schedule a time for the next review of the PMs, she would consider submitting a paper requesting the MD to review the PMs for discussion (Ms LAM, Lam Nixie);
  - (3) she enquired of the MD whether the PMs could be moved further away so that they would be farther from residential areas (Ms LAM, Lam Nixie);
  - (4) the MD had stated that it wished to relocate the berths but had yet to identify a suitable location (the Vice Chairman);
  - (5) he enquired whether all the PMs were in use at present, whether the MD had formulated any policy to cancel those PMs which had not been in use for some time to gradually reduce the number of PMs, and whether the MD would also take the views on this issue into account in its review (the Vice Chairman);
  - (6) he opined that it was unfair to use Tsuen Wan as a place for the berthing of vessels conveying dangerous goods on a long-term basis. He enquired whether the MD had considered relocating the berths to the location next to the runway of the former airport in Kowloon Bay. That location boasted substantial space and a relatively small number of residential premises in the vicinity, and was close to the urban areas and Cruise Terminal (Mr KOO Yeung-pong);
  - (7) he had conveyed the situation to the Secretary for Development during his previous visit to the Tsuen Wan District Council. He hoped that the Development Bureau would conduct a study on ways to avoid the berthing of vessels conveying dangerous goods near residential areas (Mr KOO Yeung-pong); and

- (8) given that the berths were not themselves dangerous, they could also be set up in places other than Tsuen Wan (Mr KOO Yeung-pong).

(Note: Mr LI Hung-por left the meeting at 3:10 p.m.)

20. MM/LPF(2) of the MD said that he would relay Members' enquiries to the relevant section of the MD and invite the officers concerned to attend the next CAC meeting for explaining the details to Members.

21. The Acting Chairman said that the relevant officers of the MD should be invited to attend the next CAC meeting to give response to Members' views.

22. The Chairlady resumed the chair.

(C) Paragraphs 17 to 23 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 November 2018: Propose to Extend the Supply of Seawater for Flushing to Cover Tsing Lung Tau and Sham Tseng; and (D) Paragraphs 17 to 23 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 November 2018: Propose to Extend the Supply of Seawater for Flushing to Cover East and North Lantau, Sunny Bay and Ma Wan

23. The Chairlady stated that the captioned items (C) and (D) fell within the same scope and would be discussed together. Besides, the Lands Department (LandsD) and Water Supplies Department (WSD) had submitted the written replies on the captioned matter prior to the meeting for Members' perusal.

24. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) as the CAC had expressed its stance very clearly and followed up on the two captioned items, he opined that special retention of these two items might not be necessary (the Vice Chairman);
- (2) he opined that consideration could be given to raise an agenda item regarding the WSD's consultation on the use of reclaimed water with a view to carrying out the follow-up work from another perspective (the Vice Chairman);
- (3) he thought that the arguments put forth by Members on the two agenda items and proposal on the use of non-fresh water for flushing were all good, as they could help to save water resources (Mr TAM Hoi-pong); and
- (4) he agreed that the captioned items should be removed first, but he would insist that the supply of seawater for flushing should be extended to the said areas (Mr TAM Hoi-pong).

(Note: Mr CHOW Ping-tim left the meeting at 3:13 p.m.)

25. The Chairlady said that she understood that the Members concerned would like to put forth an agenda item and follow up on the issues from another perspective. The CAC would not continue to discuss the two captioned items under the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

(E) Paragraphs 24 to 32 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 November 2018: Request to Solve the Problem of Marine Refuse and Pollution of Rambler Channel Actively

26. The Chairlady welcomed the representatives from the MD who specially joined the meeting to give response, including:

- (1) Mr MAK Shui-wing, MM/LPF(2); and
- (2) Mr LEE Tin-shing, Senior Assistant Shipping Master/Pollution Control Unit (SASM/PCU).

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) had submitted a written reply on the captioned matter prior to the meeting for Members' perusal. As this agenda item was raised by the Chairlady, the Vice Chairman would take over the chair temporarily.

27. SASM/PCU of the MD responded as follows:

- (1) the MD would instruct its cleansing service contractors to continue to keep in view the problem of marine refuse and allocate resources and send additional vessels for clearance of refuse according to the actual needs;
- (2) during January to December 2018, the MD conducted 30 anti-marine littering operations and 38 publicity and education activities at the said location. In addition to continuing its effort in distributing pamphlets about keeping the harbour clean, the MD had also put up posters on both sides of the scavenging vessels with a view to enhancing the awareness of keeping the harbour clean and reducing marine refuse at source;
- (3) with regard to the problem of the accumulation of refuse at the breakwaters of the Tsuen Wan waterfront, the MD had called relevant departments to make enquiries. So far, the MD had received a reply from the FEHD which stated that the refuse at the said location would be cleared on a weekly basis; and
- (4) apart from carrying out its daily cleansing work, the MD also actively cleared refuse at the seafront locations in conjunction with other departments responsible for cleansing work.

28. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie said that she was aware that the MD had called several departments to enquire about the refuse problem at the breakwaters, but she was surprised that the reply was ultimately from the FEHD. At the previous CAC meeting, the MD mentioned joint operations and its intention to consider their feasibility. She therefore enquired about the MD's progress in that regard. Besides, she enquired whether there was a mechanism in place at present to indicate the dedicated department for handling the refuse at the breakwaters. In her opinion, it would be a major problem if the Government did not designate a dedicated department, and so she asked for clarification from the MD.

29. SASM/PCU of the MD responded as follows:

- (1) the problems associated with the coastline of Hong Kong were managed and handled by different departments according to the locations where the problems arose. Therefore, the MD hoped to clarify the situation by calling various departments, and had learnt about the dedicated department for the management of the said location via the LandsD;
- (2) the MD later received the reply from the FEHD, which stated that a cleansing team would be deployed to the rubble mound at the breakwater concerned on a weekly basis

- to clear the refuse accumulated in the crevices; and
- (3) as the FEHD had also provided related information and photographs, the MD was now reporting on this to Members accordingly.

30. HI(CM)2 of the FEHD said that currently, the FEHD arranged for a contractor team to carry out cleansing work at the above location on a weekly basis. The FEHD would also carry out cleansing work at various seafront locations in Tsuen Wan as and when necessary.

31. Ms LAM, Lam Nixie said that she now learnt that the said location was under the FEHD's purview and hoped that the FEHD would submit to Members at every CAC meeting a record of the progress of the clearance of refuse at the seawalls with photographs, time and date of the cleansing work. Given the refuse and its density, and the presence of litter deep down the crevices, the hygiene of the location in question remained poor. This indicated that the contractor's performance had been unsatisfactory. Even though the seawalls had been cleansed by the contractor, members of the public still found the condition of the seawalls unacceptable. She thus enquired about the methods employed and time spent by the contractor in clearing the refuse, and the degree of cleanliness which the contractor would consider acceptable. She also hoped that the FEHD would provide relevant information.

32. The Acting Chairman said that he hoped that the MD and FEHD would note Members' views and requested the FEHD to provide the relevant records to Members at the next CAC meeting for their perusal.

33. The Chairlady resumed the chair.

(F) Paragraphs 33 to 43 of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 November 2018: The Water Quality and Effluent Discharges in the Waters off Tsuen Wan Pier

34. The Chairlady welcomed the representatives from government departments who specially joined the meeting, including:

- (1) Ms LO Sze-yan, Engineer/Tsuen Kwai 2 (E/TK 2) of the Drainage Services Department (DSD); and
- (2) Ms TSANG Ka-man, Carmen, Senior Environmental Protection Officer (Regional West) 2 (SEPO(RW)2) of the EPD.

Besides, the WSD had submitted a written reply on the captioned matter prior to the meeting for Members' perusal.

35. E/TK 2 of the DSD responded as follows:

- (1) it was noted that the CAC wished to invite the professor from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) to this meeting to brief them on the study jointly conducted by the DSD and HKUST on odour control hydrogel (hydrogel). As the professor was out of town in early January 2019, he could not attend this meeting; and
- (2) the DSD had invited the staff of the HKUST to hold a briefing about hydrogel on 25 January 2019 and all Members would be invited to attend. The DSD would issue formal invitation letters to Members in due course.

36. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded that the EPD had all along conducted investigations into the misconnection of sewage pipes, and would inform persons responsible for building management or departments concerned of identified cases of misconnection for follow-up action and handling.

(Note: Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis joined the meeting at 3:23 p.m.)

37. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he was concerned about whether the water quality of the Tsuen Wan waterfront was related to the misconnection of pipes and had put forth his views on that issue at various meetings (Mr TAM Hoi-pong);
- (2) he was pleased to learn that the EPD had followed up on the cases. He enquired whether the EPD had conducted any statistical survey in respect of cases of misconnection of pipes or their locations, such as the number of cases of misconnection of pipes identified by the EPD in the past three months or in the second half of 2018, and how the cases were handled. Such statistical data would help Members to understand and follow up on the cases, and form a basis for future discussions (Mr TAM Hoi-pong);
- (3) as the current approach to follow up on the issues was not based on scientific monitoring, she requested relevant statistics from the EPD (the Chairlady);
- (4) the misconnection of pipes was fairly serious in Tsuen Wan district at present. The photograph she received in the morning of 1 January 2019 clearly showed the discharge of black effluent from the outfall at the bend where The Pavilia Bay and City Point met. The situation was undesirable and aroused the media's concern over the reason for the recurrence of the situation despite years of effort in tackling the problem in Tsuen Wan (the Chairlady);
- (5) she enquired of the EPD about the timetable for the inspection of misconnected pipes, including the number of locations to be inspected within the time frame set and the anticipated completion date of the inspection of the old buildings in Tsuen Wan town centre. As the number of old buildings was fixed and would not increase, and it was believed that improper connection of pipes was rarer in new buildings, she believed that the EPD should be able to provide Members with a timetable for their follow-up (the Chairlady); and
- (6) she opined that it would be more desirable to discuss hydrogel at CAC meetings and enquired whether the DSD could assist in inviting the representatives of the HKUST to attend the CAC meeting to be held in March 2019 to discuss the details with Members (the Chairlady).

(Note: Mr WONG Wai-kit left the meeting at 3:26 p.m.)

38. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded as follows:

- (1) the EPD would provide information on its investigation into the misconnection of sewers as requested by Members after the meeting; and
- (2) if an individual building was involved during the investigation into the misconnection of sewers, the EPD had to contact the persons responsible for the building first, and staff could enter the building to conduct colour tests only with the consent of those persons. As the EPD sometimes had to spend very long time on liaison and make

arrangements on many occasions before it could successfully complete the colour test, it was difficult for the EPD to assess the time required for conducting the colour test in each building and the date of completion of the inspection of all the pipes in the buildings in Tsuen Wan. However, the EPD would carry out the work as soon as possible if resources permitted.

39. E/TK 2 of the DSD said that the DSD had arranged a briefing by the staff of the HKUST on 25 January 2019 for Members and would send invitation letters to all Members. Besides, she would invite the staff of the HKUST to attend the CAC meeting scheduled for March 2019.

40. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:

- (1) he agreed that a more scientific and organised approach should be adopted in the investigation into the misconnection of sewers (the Vice Chairman);
- (2) he believed that the EPD had grasped such details as the old buildings in Tsuen Wan town centre which had been inspected or confirmed to be problem-free as well as those scheduled for a test shortly. He hoped that the EPD would provide the details about its plan of pipe inspection so that Members could learn about the resources allocated by the EPD and the progress of the inspection (the Vice Chairman);
- (3) she was pleased at the availability of hydrogel and enquired whether the hydrogel could at the same time eliminate hydrogen sulphide while solving the odour problem and whether gases other than hydrogen sulphide produced by sewage or stool were toxic. If those gases would affect the human body but their odour was also eliminated, members of the public might be ignorant about their harmfulness and the need to avoid them (Ms LAM Yuen-pun, Phyllis);
- (4) given that the inspection of drains was a compulsory part included in the inspection under the current Mandatory Building Inspection Scheme (MBIS) and the earlier Operation Building Bright, the presence of any misconnected pipes should naturally have been detected. However, in old buildings, there were usually several large pipes installed between shops, and shop personnel were in general reluctant to allow entry of staff of the EPD for works purposes, thereby posing difficulties to rectification works even in identified cases of misconnection of pipes. Nevertheless, with the issuance of MBIS notices and the introduction of mandatory inspection of drains, he hoped that the situation would improve (Mr LO Siu-kit);
- (5) he hoped that the commissioning of the four dry weather flow interceptors in Tsuen Wan next year would improve the situation (Mr LO Siu-kit);
- (6) he enquired how the EPD identified the case mentioned earlier and how exactly the pipes were misconnected, and whether staff encountered the difficulties Members mentioned just now (Mr TAM Hoi-pong);
- (7) he agreed that public powers should be exercised as appropriate for public interest and enquired whether the public powers to conduct colour tests were based on the sincerity of the EPD's staff or any relevant legislation (Mr TAM Hoi-pong);
- (8) there were many old buildings in Tsuen Wan town centre. He enquired of the EPD whether the inspection plan for 2019 had been formulated; if not, whether the EPD would first send letters to all the persons concerned and inspect those locations in respect of which consent to inspection had been obtained. He believed that the former was more organised than the latter (Mr TAM Hoi-pong);

- (9) with regard to the photograph taken on 1 January 2019 as shown by the Member, he enquired whether the EPD had collected water samples for testing and whether the substances in the water were toxic. He also enquired why the misconnection of pipelines would lead to black effluent and oil pollution in the photograph and why black effluent only appeared occasionally rather than persistently if misconnection was indeed the cause (Mr KOO Yeung-pong);
- (10) the entire Tsuen Wan district and even Kwai Tsing district would be affected if the black effluent contained toxic substances. In that case, it would not merely be an odour problem, but would become a serious issue which affected people's livelihood (Mr KOO Yeung-pong); and
- (11) residents might not understand whether the black effluent in the photograph was related to the misconnection of pipes. They just hoped that the problem would be solved (Mr KOO Yeung-pong).

41. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded as follows:

- (1) she thanked Members for assisting in explaining the EPD's investigation into the misconnection of sewers and the difficulties encountered;
- (2) currently, when investigating the misconnection of sewers in the district, the EPD would look at previous test results for water samples from manholes in the district, and then commenced targeted investigations into those manholes containing a relatively high level of pollutants with a view to using resources more effectively and conducting inspections systematically;
- (3) the cases of misconnection of sewers identified earlier through inspections of manholes and colour tests involved public sewers, and the responsible department had been informed of that for follow-up action;
- (4) during the investigation of the misconnection of sewers in the district, the EPD would not only focus on individual buildings but would review the overall situation in the district. If misconnection of pipes was identified in individual shops, the EPD would request the shops to make rectification as soon as possible. If misconnection of pipes was identified in a building, the EPD would pass the case to the Buildings Department (BD) for follow-up. If the case was related to a public sewer, the EPD would inform the department concerned to follow up;
- (5) after learning about the case of 1 January 2019 on 2 January 2019, the EPD had deployed staff immediately for on-site inspection but no black effluent was identified. From the observation of the condition of the periphery of the sewage outfall, no residue of black matter was found. Therefore, it was believed that the black matter was not oil. The EPD had collected water samples at the sewage outfall for testing; and
- (6) the EPD had deployed staff again in the following two days to conduct inspection at the sewage outfall and no irregularities were found. The EPD would continue to investigate.

42. E/TK 2 of the DSD responded as follows:

- (1) the study of hydrogel was divided into two stages. The first stage was the study of the effectiveness of hydrogel on the inhibition of hydrogen sulphide. The findings of the study at that time indicated the positive effect of hydrogel on the inhibition of the

- concentration of hydrogen sulphide;
- (2) regarding other sources of odour, the second stage of the study of hydrogel focused on the substance's effectiveness in controlling other gases, such as those from volatile organic compounds, and its effective range. The findings could facilitate the DSD's consideration of the density of the hydrogel to be placed; and
  - (3) the HKUST had all along made attempts to improve hydrogel with a view to inhibiting more different types of gases and the study was underway.

43. The Chairlady said that as Members still had enquiries about hydrogel, she hoped that the DSD would arrange the staff of the HKUST to give a detailed explanation to Members at the CAC meeting held in March 2019. She believed that this could also allow more time for the HKUST to make arrangements. She also hoped that the staff of the HKUST would bring along the relevant equipment to the upcoming meeting as she believed that this would result in a higher attendance than an explanatory session otherwise arranged at another time. She further remarked that she previously thought that the misconnection of pipes would occur only in old buildings, but it seemed that it would also be found in new buildings and even public sewers. Even if the department concerned managed to rectify all the misconnected pipes in the old buildings in Tsuen Wan town centre, the problem could persist and remain a cause for concern. In addition, whenever there was a discharge of unidentified matter at the sewage outfall, she would receive the relevant information immediately, but the EPD always deployed staff to the scene only on the next day for inspection. The situation was undesirable and she enquired whether the EPD could provide a hotline to Members so that they could inform the EPD which could thus deploy staff for on-site inspection within a certain period of time. She opined that the EPD should discuss and review the handling of the above situation.

44. The views, enquiries and suggestions of Members were summarised as follows:
- (1) as the collection of water samples should require specific equipment, he hoped that the EPD would prepare the equipment for collecting water samples for the district councillors of the constituencies concerned in the coastal area so that they could collect water samples when necessary, or provide feasible methods for collecting water samples to the district councillors of the constituencies concerned (Mr LO Siu-kit);
  - (2) he enquired of the EPD about the public powers for entering the premises. He also noticed that the issue might be related to the interior renovation of the shops or buildings and hoped that the representatives of the BD would be invited to attend the next CAC meeting (the Vice Chairman); and
  - (3) with regard to the immediate collection of water samples, it instantly came to his mind that the Police might be able to provide assistance. He believed that in order to eliminate the existing problem of sewage treatment, the scope of discussion and review might have to be widened (the Vice Chairman).

45. E/TK 2 of the DSD said that the DSD would invite representatives of the HKUST to attend the CAC meeting to be held in March.

46. SEPO(RW)2 of the EPD responded as follows:
- (1) given the certain risks involved in the collection of water samples at the location concerned, she did not recommend Members to collect the samples themselves;

- (2) upon receipt of complaints, the EPD would deploy staff to conduct on-site investigation and collect water samples for testing as soon as possible;
- (3) when the EPD received the aforesaid information on 2 January 2019, it deployed staff on the same day to conduct on-site investigation and collect samples; and
- (4) currently, the staff of the EPD would contact building management offices, persons-in-charge or owners' committees to arrange colour tests. In case of a refusal of entry to any premises, staff of the EPD would not attempt forcible entry.

47. The Chairlady said that the CAC would invite the relevant departments to send representatives to attend the next CAC meeting for discussion.

#### IV Item 3: Work Progress Report of Working Groups under Coastal Affairs Committee

##### (A) Working Group on Promoting the Image of the Coastal Area

48. The Chairlady said that the Working Group, the Working Group on Management of Facilities in the Coastal Area and a district organisation organised the "Tsuen Wan Sea-front Night's Dream Music Festival" at the Central Plaza in Tsuen Wan Park from 20 to 23 December 2018. The residents responded enthusiastically to the performances of the Festival with a full house and a sizable standing audience by the side. She hoped that additional funding would be allocated to the activity in the future to seat a larger audience. Due to inclement weather, the latter half of the activity during the night on the third day ended early to ensure the safety of the participants. In addition, the photographs of the Festival were readily available and could be provided to Members who were interested.

##### (B) Working Group on Management of Facilities in the Coastal Area

49. The Vice Chairman said that despite the rain on the third day of the "Tsuen Wan Sea-front Night's Dream Music Festival", the activity was held as scheduled and it was terminated only until the weather deteriorated at night in order to ensure the safety of the audience. The Working Group hoped that Members would continue to support the activity in the coming year.

##### (C) Working Group on Advance Works for Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun (Non-standing Working Group)

50. Mr LO Siu-kit said that the Working Group would hold its second meeting at 2:00 p.m. on 9 January 2019 with the CEDD for discussion and follow-up on the views put forward by Members during on-site inspection. He hoped that some good progress could be made in the meeting.

#### V Item 4: Any Other Business

51. Members noted the contents of the following information papers:

- (1) Amount of Marine Floating Refuse collected by Marine Department in Tsuen Wan District  
(CAC Paper No. 19/18-19);
- (2) Promotion and Anti-Marine Littering Operation in Tsuen Wan  
(CAC Paper No. 20/18-19); and
- (3) Financial Statement of Coastal Affairs Committee as at 17.12.2018  
(CAC Paper No. 21/18-19).

VI Adjournment of Meeting

52. The Chairlady reminded Members that the next meeting was scheduled on 1 March 2019 and the deadline for submission of paper was 14 February 2019.

53. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Tsuen Wan District Council Secretariat

29 January 2019